



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

September 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Midwest Area Office Environmental Management System Policy

TO: MWA Office Employees

FROM: Laurence D. Chandler
Director, Midwest Area

In accordance with Executive Orders 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance and 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, and the ARS Deputy Administrator's letter of June 28, 2004, all appropriate ARS facilities are required to have an Environmental Management System (EMS). This requirement applies to the MWA Office as well as all our research locations.

Midwest Area researchers study crops and livestock to improve both quality and quantity. In addition, they devise new ways of using those crops to add value, increase exports, improve human health, and protect the environment. There are extensive programs in our Area focused on preserving and improving soil, air, and water quality. We are finding new and innovative ways to address animal waste management issues, prevent soil erosion and eliminate pesticides from surface and ground water. These examples represent only a few of the research programs in the Midwest Area and ARS that are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the economic strength of American agriculture while improving the quality of life for each and every citizen.

In order to promote these research programs in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner, the MWA SHEM Office has assisted all Area locations to set up an EMS – a cyclical method of managing an Environmental Protection Program at each facility on a Plan, Do, Check, Act cycle. These location EMS plans include a commitment to environmental compliance, pollution prevention, conservation practices, and continual improvement.

The MWA Office is also considered an appropriate facility and has had an EMS in place since 2005. MWA Office EMS initiatives include: Minimize fossil fuels use; Minimize utilities use; promote Green Purchasing; Implement sound environmental practices for life-cycle phases of electronic products: operations and maintenance and end-of-life management; promote Sustainable Buildings, promote Sustainable Acquisition and Promote Recycling.

While these EMS initiatives rely heavily on the SHEM and Engineering sections of the Area



Midwest Area □ Office of the Area Director
1815 North University □ Peoria, IL 61604
Phone: (309) 681-6601 □ Fax: (309) 681-6684 □
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Office Staff, there are other sections that also have a role to play. For instance, in the Agreements Section, language should be included in new cooperative agreements that cooperators will follow the EMS guidelines and requirements of the location EMS where they will be working. In the Procurement Section, alternative and green purchasing requirements must be followed for both normal and purchase card acquisitions.

Because the MWA Office is a tenant of NCAUR, all MWA Office personnel must follow the requirements of the NCAUR EMS Policy, where applicable. This would include items such as recycling paper, cardboard, aluminum, etc., printing on both sides of a page when appropriate, purchasing energy-star rated electronics and other equipment that will allow the Center to achieve its energy reduction goals, etc.

If you have questions about the MWA EMS please do not hesitate to ask Cal Mather, the MWA Safety, Health and Environmental Management Section Head or Ralph Jesse, the MWA Environmental Protection Specialist. Ralph can be reached at 309-681-6644 or by email at Ralph.Jesse@ars.usda.gov. Cal can be reached at 309-681-6608 or by email at Cal.Mather@ars.usda.gov.